

REMARKS

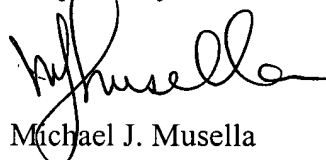
Prior to entry of this amendment, Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-22 are pending in the present application. It is greatfully acknowledged that Claims 6 and 16 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner rejected Claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-15, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keeth (U.S. Patent 5,946,257) in view of Kowalski (U.S. Patent 5,444,412).

Claims 5, 6, and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 6 and 16. Accordingly, Claims 5, 6, and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice, independent Claims 10 and 20 have been amended. Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 6 and intervening Claim 5. Claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 16. No new subject matter has been added.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 2-4, 8-11, 13-15, and 18-22, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Musella
Reg. No. 39,310
Attorney for Applicants

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484